

**(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau**



**(43) International Publication Date**  
**3 June 2004 (03.06.2004)**

## PCT

**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 2004/047303 A1**

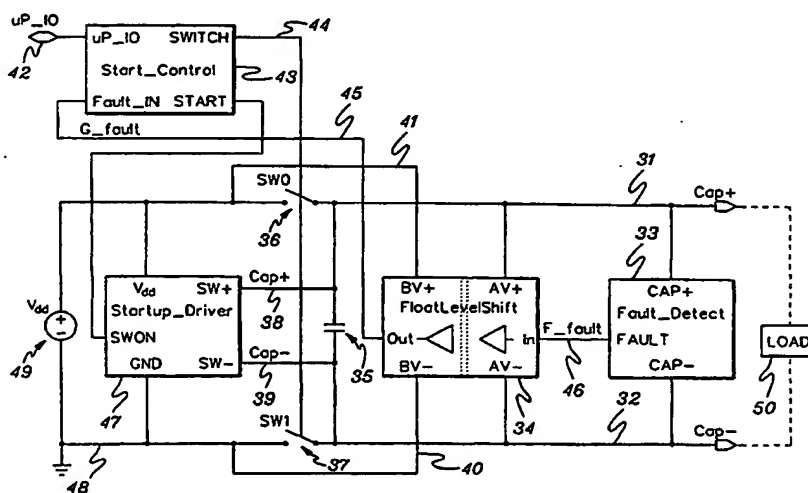
- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H03M 3/07**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/IB2003/005184**
- (22) International Filing Date: **15 November 2003 (15.11.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/427,633 18 November 2002 (18.11.2002) US  
10/607,749 27 June 2003 (27.06.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**
- (84) Designated States (regional): **ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,**

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[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title:** PROTECTION CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR FLOATING POWER TRANSFER DEVICE



- (57) Abstract:** A protection circuit and method are provided for a floating power transfer device having one or more switches for controlling charging of a reservoir capacitor across which a load is applied when in use. The protection circuit includes a control circuit (43), a fault detection circuit (33) and a precharge driver circuit (47). The control circuit (43) at least partially controls switching of the at least one switch, while the fault detection circuit (33) detects when a fault in the floating power transfer device or the load occurs and sends a fault detect signal to the control circuit (43) in response thereto. The precharge driver circuit (47), which is enabled by the control circuit (43) responsive to receipt of the fault detect signal, attempts to precharge the reservoir capacitor (35) to a voltage level sufficient for switching of the one or more switches (36, 37) to proceed without damaging the switches (36, 37).